CAG report on disinvestment of BALCO

478. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 305 given in Rajya Sabha on 15th April, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the CAG has furnished its final report on disinvestment of Government equity in BALCO; and

(b) if so, the observations made by the CAG therein?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of NALCO

479. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed disinvestment of NALCO has been deferred;

(b) if so, the specific reasons therefore and whether the deferment is likely to have adverse impact upon investment sentiment and valuation of equity;

(c) the annual rate of return on public/Government investment in NALCO at present; and

(d) whether it is possible to ensure that the company's economic viability and profitability in future in view of the liberalization and globalization of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Due diligence by potential bidders have been suspended as the team that went for the first plant visit was roughed up. As such incidents can adversely affect investor sentiments as well as valuation, due diligence will be resumed after adequate arrangements have been ensured.

(c) As per the Comptroller and Auditor General Review of Accounts, the ratio of profit before tax to net-worth is 16.31% for the year 2001-2002.

(d) NALCO is a profitable company with significant technological and resource endowment advantages. The ability of NALCO to compete effectively in future will depend on its operational efficiency and adaptability to market conditions.

Sale of Centaur Hotel, Mumbai

480. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which the Centaur Airport Hotel, Mumbai was sold to M/s Batra Hospitality; and

(b) the price paid by M/s Sahara for the same hotel purchased from M/s Batra hospitality?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The entire business of Centaur Hotel Airport Mumbai (CHMA) has been sold to M/s Batra Hospitality Private Limited (BHPL) on 'slump sale' basis for Rs. 83 crores on the basis of competitive bidding following the due process of disinvestment. The transfer of the business in favour of BHPL took place on 5.6.2002.

(b) Shri A.L. Batra, erstwhile Chairman of BHPL, has intimated that the entire shareholding of BHPL has been bought over by Sahara India Group from the then existing shareholders of BHPL on 10.10.2002. It has also been intimated by Sahara India Group that the total transaction value paid to the shareholders of BHPL amounted to Rs. 45 crores in addition to repaying the borrowings from Oriental Bank of Commerce to the extent of Rs. 70.50 crores.

Transfer of IOC outlet at Mumbai

481. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Naik again question disinvestment", which appeared in The